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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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Now... the Amazing

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SPIDER-MAN!

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TO LIFT!**

Spiderman's energized web actually pulls and lifts objects heavier than his own weight!

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Spider-man is 13½ inches tall.

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While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

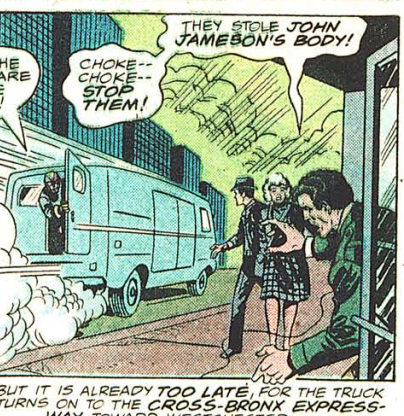
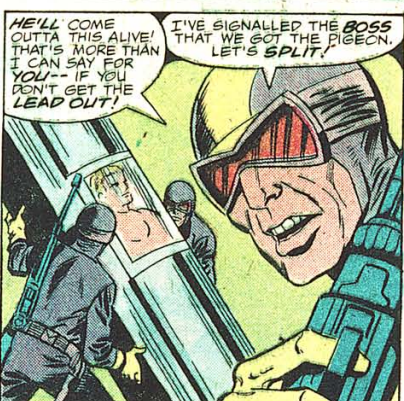
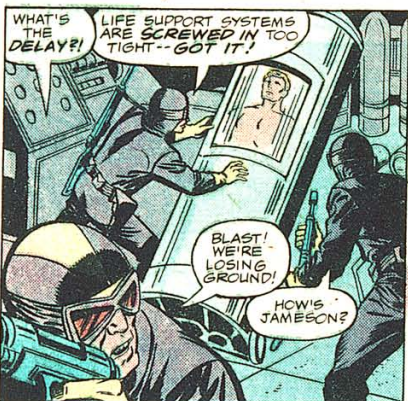
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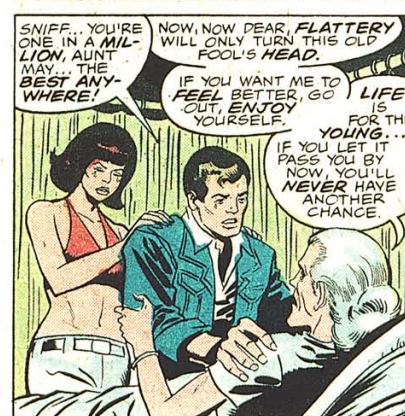
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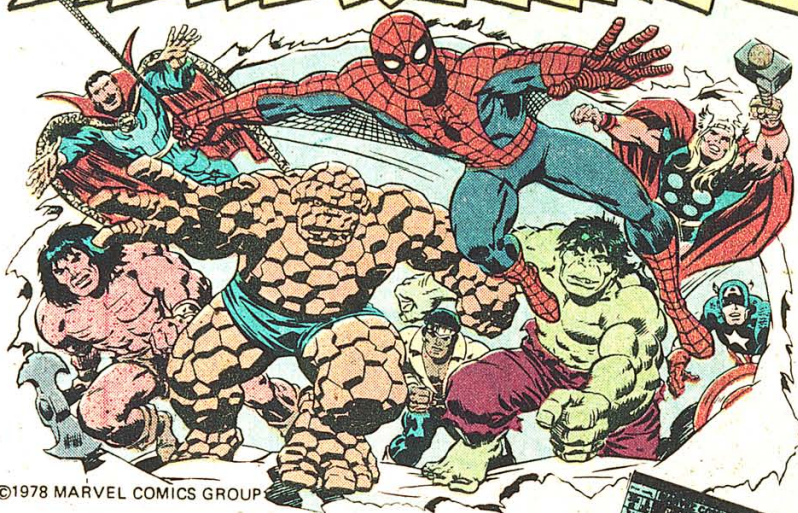
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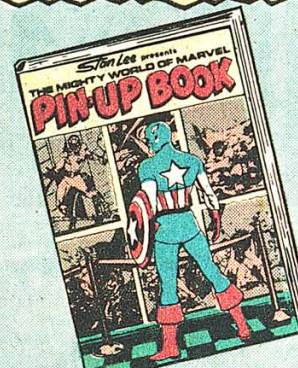
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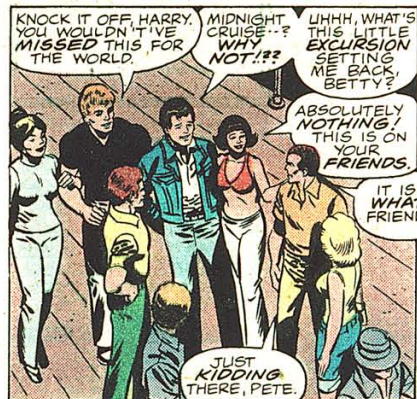
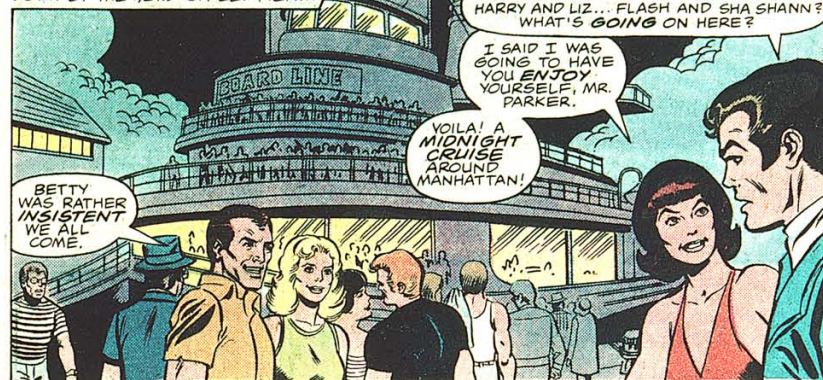
SHE DESERVES THE BEST... BUT SOMEHOW I THINK I'M FAILING HER.



BETTY MAKES SOME MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALLS, WHICH GIVES US TIME TO TRAVEL DOWN TO THE DOCKS...



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IT'S NOT FAIR. CURSE IT ALL-- IT'S NOT FAIR!

WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO KIDNAP JOHN?



CALM DOWN, JONAH. YOU'LL GIVE YOURSELF A HEART ATTACK!

LORD, MAYBE I DESERVE IT. WHAT HAVE I DONE SO WRONG, JOE?



WHAT AM I STAYING HERE FOR? I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL--!

NO, JONAH... YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!



NOTHING CAN BE DONE FOR JOHN. NOW, YOU'RE THE ONE NEEDING HELP!

THE RAINBOW GRILL ATOP THE R.C.A. BUILDING IN ROCKEFELLER CENTER OFFERS A SPECTACULAR 360 DEGREE VIEW OF MANHATTAN...



I LOVE THAT BOY, JOE. EVER SINCE MY WIFE DIED, I'VE BEEN MOTHER AND FATHER TO HIM. CARING FOR HIM... WATCHING HIM GROW...



FOR SOME REASON, JOHN'S BEEN CURSED... FIRST HE TURNS INTO A MINDLESS MONSTER... NOW HIS BODY HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED!

SPIDER-MAN! IT MUST BE HIS FAULT!



JONAH, I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU I RESPECT YOU. YOU'RE THE BEST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER THIS TOWN HAS EVER SEEN.

BUT I'LL BE HANGED IF I LET YOU BLAME THIS ON SPIDER-MAN.



HE MAY BE YOUR PET HATE... BUT KEEP HIM OUT OF THIS.

ALL RIGHT, JOE. WHAT NOW? DO I WAIT FOR A RANDOM NOTICE? WHAT IF IT DOESN'T COME?



WAIT! JONAH, YOU'RE SITTING ATOP THE MOST EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING TEAM IN THE COUNTRY.

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D-DO YOU THINK WE HAVE A CHANCE?

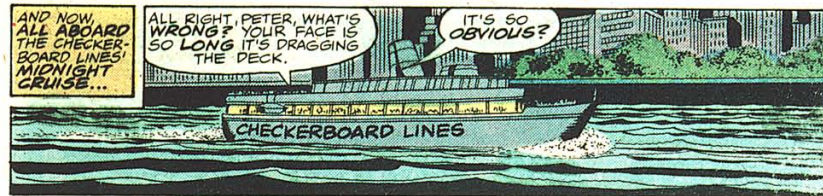
DO YOU?



DANG RIGHT WE DO!

I DON'T PAY YOU TO DAWDLE, ROBERTSON! C'MON!

WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!



AND NOW, ALL ABOARD THE CHECKERBOARD LINES! MIDNIGHT CRUISE...

ALL RIGHT, PETER, WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR FACE IS SO LONG IT'S DRAGGING THE DECK.

IT'S SO OBVIOUS?



WELL... BETTY, IT'S US!

THAT'S JUST IT-- THERE /ISN'T ANY US... THERE CAN'T BE ANY US!



WHEN YOU CAME BACK, I SORTA WONDERED ABOUT GETTING BACK TOGETHER.

BUT IT ALWAYS CAME DOWN TO THIS-- YOU'RE MARRIED!



SEPARATED, PETER. I LEFT NED. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG IN PICKING UP SOMETHING THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN DROPPED.



P-PETER, I NEED YOU... I'M FRIGHTENED ABOUT ALMOST EVERYTHING... BEING ALONE STARTING UP ALL OVER AGAIN...

PLEASE, DON'T YOU REJECT ME, PETER.



WELL, WELL, LOOK WHO'S BACK IN TOWN-- MRS. LEEDS!

MARY JANE? UHHH...



BROWN-EYES, MEET BRAD DAVIS. BRAD, THIS IS PETER PARKER. I TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM.

PARKER! NICE MEETING YOU, BUD!

THE SAME... I THINK.



HI, MARY JANE, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT NED AND ME?

NO, MY DEAR, WHY NOT TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT.

THAT CRUISE SHIP-- THAT'S OUR TARGET.

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WHATEVER YOU SAY, JIGSAW. YOU'RE THE BOSS!

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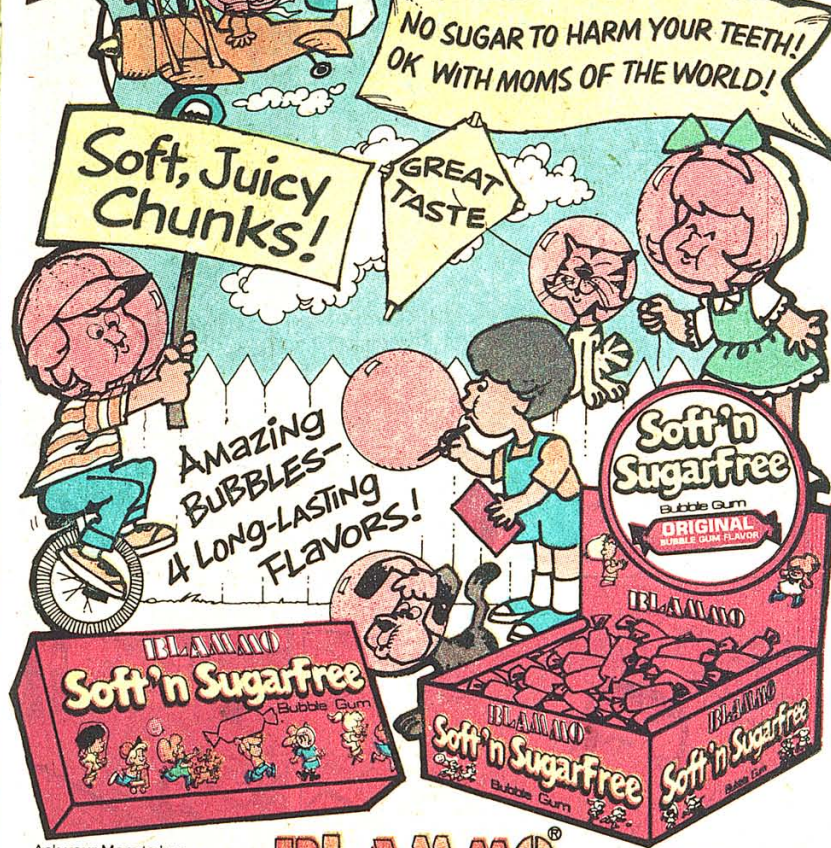
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WELL, PETER AND MARY JANE... WHAT DO YOU THINK'S GONNA HAPPEN?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M SURE NOT GONNA MISS THIS.



SO, TELL ME, HOW'VE YOU BEEN DOING?

WELL, I ALMOST GRADUATED...

INCREDIBLE, OF COURSE I GOT THREE MODELLING GIGS COMING UP, AND YOU?



UMM, I HADN'T HEARD.

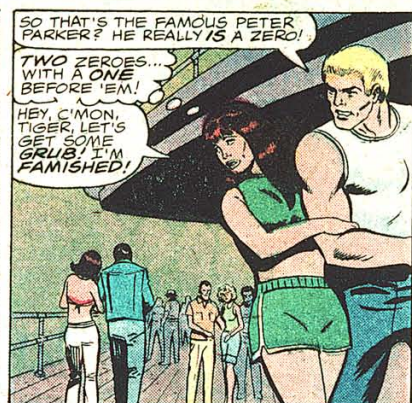
WELL, I, UHH... LOOK, I'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE OTHERS. SEE YOU AROUND?



MAYBE, TIGER, MAYBE!

YEAH... I MAY BE BUSY, TOO!

SEeya PARKER!



SO THAT'S THE FAMOUS PETER PARKER? HE REALLY IS A ZERO!

TWO ZEROES... WITH A ONE BEFORE 'EM!

HEY, C'MON, TIGER, LET'S GET SOME GRUB, I'M FAMISHED!



I TOLD YOU IT WOULDN'T WORK, LIZ.

OH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, HARRY. PETER LOOKED LIKE HE WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING, BUT HE CHICKENED OUT.

ANYWAY, I STILL THINK I WAS RIGHT IN TELLING M.J. ABOUT TONIGHT.



THE FACT SHE SHOWED UP PROVES THAT.

LET'S GET BACK TO THE GANG... I DON'T WANT PETER GETTING SUSPICIOUS.



LIZ! LOOK, A HOOK JUST LATCHED ONTO THE RAIL!

SOMETHING'S BOARDING US!

I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE SEEN JAWS 2!



A MOMENT LATER, SEVERAL MENACING-LOOKING FIGURES CLAMBER ABOARD...

ARCHIE! GET TO THE CAPTAIN, FAST! CUT ALL RADIOS!

EVERYONE ELSE, SHUT UP AND LISTEN TO EVERY WORD WE SAY!

P-PETER? WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?

I KNOW THE ONE WITH THE SCARS-- THAT'S JIGSAW!

YOU JUST MAY LIVE THROUGH THIS ADVENTURE IF YOU BEHAVE.

*SPIDEY BATTLED JIGSAW IN #162, M.W.



WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--

SILENCE, BLONDIE! OR YOU'LL VISIT DAVEY JONES' LOCKER-- PERMANENTLY!



WE WANT EVERYTHING... MONEY, JEWELS, CREDIT CARDS-- YOU GOT IT, WE'LL TAKE IT.



HURRY! WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL EVENING!

ALL I HAVE IS TEN DOLLARS!

WRONG-- WE'VE GOT IT. YOU'VE GOT NOTHING!



IN THE CONFUSION, PETER PARKER MANAGES TO SLIP UNSEEN INTO THE DARK, SPREADING SHADOWS...

NO ONE LOOKING THIS WAY. GOOD. I WON'T BE MISSED.



BOSS, WE GOT ABOUT THREE GRAND. NOT BAD!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? NO RISK, HIGH PROFIT, EASY PICKINGS!

C'MON, LET'S MOVE IT 'FORE THE COAST GUARD SHOWS UP!



LEMME SEE... CAMERA'S SET UP... MAYBE I CAN MAKE SOME MONEY ON THIS.

I HAVEN'T SOLD ANY PIX TO JAMESON IN WEEKS!

FIVE SECONDS IS ALL IT TAKES.



ONE: A SILENT WEB IS SHOT...

TWO: SOFTLY, IT SLIPS OVER TERRY O'CONNER, TWO-BIT HOOD.



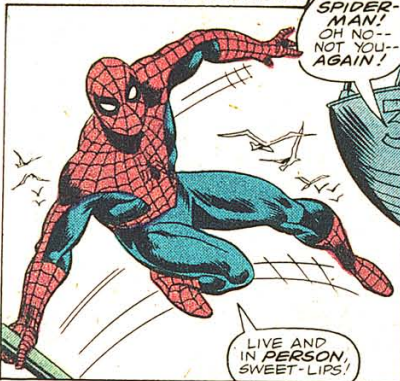
THREE: TERRY TAKES HIS SATURDAY NIGHT BATH A WEB-BIT EARLY!



FOUR: JIGSAW BECOMES A MITE SUSPICIOUS.



FIVE: WELL, SEE FOR YOURSELF!



SPIDER-MAN! OH NO-- NOT YOU-- AGAIN!

LIVE AND IN PERSON, SWEET-LIPS!

WANNA MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?



SHOOT HIM! KILL HIM!

IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT A GUY YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IN MONTHS!

WHERE'S THE "HELLO, HOW ARE YOU'S"?



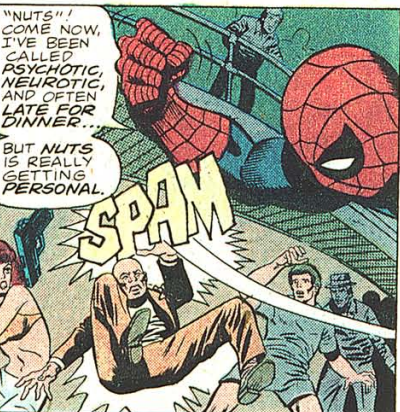
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO OLD-FASHIONED COURTESY? SHEESH!

NOW, LISTEN TO ME AND LEARN.

HI THERE, MY NAME'S SPIDEY!

WANNA SEE MY FOOT?

SILENCE HIM! HE'S NUTS!



"NUTS"! COME NOW, I'VE BEEN CALLED PSYCHOTIC, NEUROTIC, AND OFTEN LATE FOR DINNER.

BUT NUTS IS REALLY GETTING PERSONAL.

SPAN

SPIDER-MAN WHIRLS, HIS MIDDLE FINGERS CURL INTO HIS PALM, ACTIVATING HIS WEB-SHOOTERS...



DON'T YOU JOKERS REALIZE HOW MUCH BULLETS COST THESE DAYS?

IT'S GETTING SO YOU GOTTA ROB BANKS JUST TO PAY FOR YOUR AMMO.



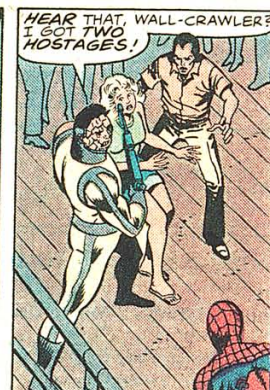
N-NO MORE JOKES, CREEP, OR ELSE THE BROAD GETS PLUGGED.

LIZ!



NO, HARRY-- GET BACK!

SORRY, KID YOUR BOY FRIENDS COMIN' WITH US!



HEAR THAT, WALL-CRAWLER? I GOT TWO HOSTAGES!



AND IF YOU PLAY ONE THE WRONG WAY, IT MIGHT TRIGGER HIS MIND, TURN HARRY BACK INTO THE GREEN GOBLIN.

I'VE GOT TO CALM HIM DOWN!



HARRY, GO WITH LIZ... SHE'LL BE SAFE WITH YOU THERE.

LIZ... ALL I CARE ABOUT IS LIZ.



WITHIN MOMENTS, A SHAKY JIGSAW AND HIS TWO HOSTAGES LOWER THEMSELVES TO HIS BOAT...

STAY WHERE YOU ARE FOR TEN MINUTES, SPIDER-MAN, TIL I'M OUT OF SIGHT!



IF I EVEN SEE A HINT OF YOU, THESE KIDS GET WASTED.

THERE GOES THAT CRUMB.



I'VE NEVER FELT SO USELESS, SPIDEY. WHAT ARE YOU--

DON'T BOTHER, SPIDER-MAN TOOK OFF!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THE WATERS WERE SAFE AGAIN...

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MARY WOLFMAN
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

What with Peter Parker's proposal of marriage to Mary Jane Watson and the reintroduction of Betty Brant Leeds, SPIDER-MAN #182-183 has triggered an avalanche of mail, even more than Marvel's most popular super-hero usually gets. So what say we dig right in, beginning with this acutely-critical communique...

Dear Marvel,

When Spider-Man first appeared on the comics scene, he was immediately a smash hit because (if we are to believe the hype) he dared to do what had never been done before—to be unpredictable, to have that funky element of real life that you never know what's going to happen next. Spider-Man is still the same as he was back then. But this is not such a good thing. Spidey is still daring to be different, but different from what super-heroes were in 1960. He was unpredictable back then, but he has now established a record of doing "unpredictable" things over and over again. Speculating about what will happen next in SPIDER-MAN is like wondering if the good guys will win on your seventh viewing of STAR WARS. Spidey has degenerated into a red-and-blue Mego doll; other than the fact that he's a nice package, he's the same as most of the other super-heroes around. He is no longer in the vanguard.

I was talking with some friends about issue #182 where Parker proposes to Mary Jane. It was fairly obvious that she was gonna say no. I mean, when has Marv Wolfman ever exhibited the urge to change something so it shows? Still, we mused, Spider-Man's concept is that of radical change. Wolfman is the new writer, so maybe he's trying to bring back the old unpredictable Spidey. We were wrong. We were caught on guard.

After so long with Gerry Conway and Len Wein, I thought we might be seeing daylight with Marv. So maybe his SPIDER-WOMAN and NOVA mags aren't up to par. DRACULA certainly is. Maybe we'll see that taut characterization, those nice conflicts, in a super-hero mag. Maybe not. Blast! The idea of a married Parker, bouncing between a teacher's assistant job, the Bugle, home strife, and the usual plethora of super-villains, really appealed to me. It would open up a new vista of stories, guaranteeing that the writer would do something new. But, with MJ's turn-down in #183, it is not to be.

I'm sure that Marv thinks he has gobs of "new, exciting ideas that'll really throw ya for a loop, effendis!" But I doubt it. You can't kill off another supporting character, and I'm sure readers wouldn't want you to. You've done it twice (Capt. Stacy and daughter), it won't be any good again.

But maybe you could clear up some of the long-running plot threads and replace them with new ones we're not expecting. Spider-Man's biggest gimmick is his cavalcade of personal problems. What's wrong with his life that hasn't been done before. A three-year old could clear up Parker's life. Take his "wanted by the police" shtick. That has not only been over-used in Spider-Man, but in most of Marvel's other books as well, not to mention a few of DC's. Why not clear him?

Is Spidey in the forefront of the field today? When people ask that question, Marvel usually points to the sales figures and says, see, ain't he great? Well, that red-yellow-and-blue goon at DC has pretty impressive sales figures, too, but in no way is he in the artistic forefront of the industry. Which is where Spidey was back in the Stan Lee days. Spider-Man was once famous for his radical changes. Not traditional comic book "changes" that appear for about eight issues and fade away to be replaced by the standard. I mean lasting changes like Peter's high school graduation, his love life, and the Gwen Stacy affair. Something that will still be important fifty issues later.

This may seem a little emphatic and overemotional, but believe me, this letter has been building for some time. The Mary Jane affair was just the proverbial straw. Thanks for the chance to berate you like this. It may not help, but it makes me feel better.

Kurt Busiek
41 Somerset Rd.
Lexington, MA 02173

And it makes us feel the same, Kurt, when we get a gamut of constructive criticisms on the direction of our books. Thanks for caring enough about SPIDER-MAN to get so worked up to write a letter as hard-hitting and sincere as you did. (We only wish we had more room to print your letter in full.) As you can see from issues present and immediately past, Marv and the rest of the creative team on SPIDER-MAN are making a real effort to bring this spirit of innovation and change back to Marvel's trend-setting superhero book. In issues past, you've indeed seen Spider-Man cleared of his police charges as you called for, as well as his graduation from college (for all intents and purposes). Marv in fact intends that each issue of SPIDER-MAN at least until #200 (!) contains a real development in Peter Parker's life. And while he obviously does not have in mind the marriage that you feel will send the book on a rosy path (don't you feel that Marvel has the concept of married super-heroes pretty well staked out elsewhere?), he does have some changes in the wind that will certainly make the book as unpredictable as it has been in the golden days of yesteryear. Check back with us in a few months, friend Kurt, and tell us if you don't agree.

Now for a handful of other reactions...

Dear Bullpen,

I have been a fan of Marvel for two years now, and I've seen great comics come and go. Let me get to the point: if Peter Parker gets married, I'll feel that another great comic has gone. I can't see Peter tied down with a wife to support and all that jazz. It would be boring. Keep Peter Parker single!

Robert Brosnell
11304 Marlboro Pk.
Upper Marlboro, MD 20870

Greetings Madmen:

...I find it hard to believe that even Mary Jane, as carefree as she is, would reject Pete's proposal by saying, "Proposal? Oh, that," and "See you around... sometime. We can still be friends, right?" That's inhuman! She's supposed to be a good human being with a strong, longtime friendship with Pete, I thought. Be realistic!

Last you think I'm overly harsh, I must say that I'm glad Pete actually asked MJ to marry him, and I'm also glad she turned him down. Despite the actual dialog, it was a natural, believable progression of their relationship, and necessary in order to keep Spidey the forward-moving strip it has always been.

Will Hevelin
242 Louis #3
East Lansing, MI 48823

Dear Marvel,

I've just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #184 and the fact that Betty Brant has reappeared is frightening. I'm afraid that Peter and Betty might get romantically involved. She shouldn't 'since she's married, and he shouldn't, because he doesn't need someone like her. Betty despises violence and Spider-Man—she could never understand Peter.

I am relieved that he and Mary Jane did not get married. I don't like her, she seems so shallow. Although I don't know much of her background, I don't trust her. I don't believe she ever really even loved Peter.

Peter Parker needs some new girlfriends. Someone understanding, patient, and willing to tolerate his sudden disappearances. Someone with a little mystery herself. In fact, someone like me. Consider it.

Kathy Wilson
(no address given)

And so it goes. While the reactions to Mary Jane and Betty's upsets of Peter's life were diverse, they were, to a letter, forceful. Thanks for sharing your views with us, one and all—we only wish we had room to print more of them! Keep writing, people, as this page attests we value your opinions, no matter how critical. Oh, and Kathy, if you remember to include your address on your next letter, we'll be sure to pass it on to Peter Parker for consideration of your proposal. Okay?

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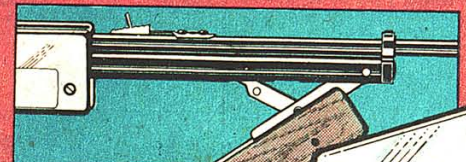
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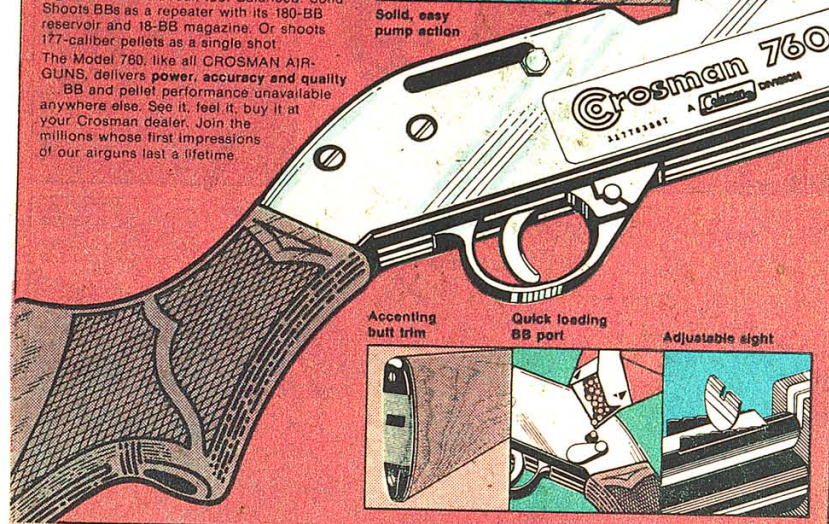
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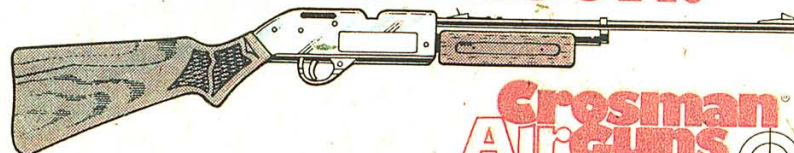
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HURRIEDLY, THE STRICKEN CRUISE SHIP RETURNS TO PORT...



THE GIRLS WILL TAKE A CAB HOME. LET'S FIND HARRY AND LIZ.



GOOD. FLASH IS GONE. I HATE LYING TO HIM...



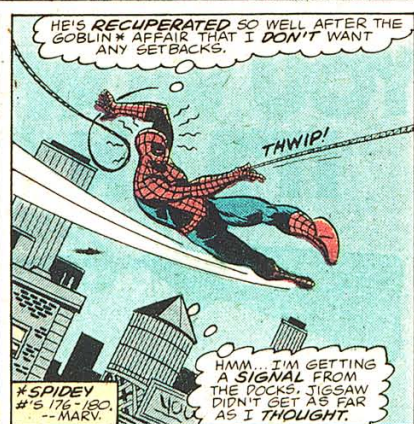
MAYBE PETER PARKER'S USELESS OUT ON THE STREETS...



BUT SPIDER-MAN IS ALTOGETHER A DIFFERENT STORY. WHEW! SOMETHING'S GOTTA BE WRONG WITH M. I FELT CLAUSTROPHOBIC OUT THERE ON THE OPEN SEA...



...WHILE HERE, SANDWICHED BETWEEN A ZILLION SKY-SCRAPERS-- I FEEL FREE!



HE'S RECUPERATED SO WELL AFTER THE GOBLIN* AFFAIR THAT I DON'T WANT ANY SETBACKS.

HMM... I'M GETTING A SIGNAL FROM THE ROCKS. JIGSAW DIDN'T GET AS FAR AS I THOUGHT.

AND IF THAT ISN'T A CUE TO SEQUE OVER TO THE WEST SIDE PER...



I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH THIS.

WHY DID I LET MYSELF BE TALKED INTO THIS MADNESS?

B-BUT WHAT DO I DO NOW?



OKAY, OKAY--GO! GET OUT OF HERE. BUT DON'T LOOK BACK OR I SWEAR I'LL SHOOT!

HARRY! THANK HEAVEN!

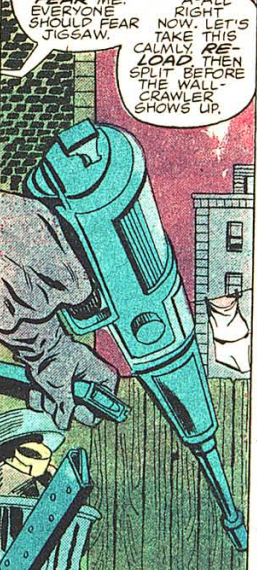
DON'T TALK, LIZ--RUN!



CAN'T TAKE THESE TWO WITH ME. I'LL NEVER GET A MOMENT'S REST!

THAT... THAT COSTUMED CRETIN WILL DOG MY TAIL TILL HE FINDS ME. BLAST SPIDER-MAN--BLAST HIM!

EVER SINCE OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER I'VE PREPARED CROSSING HIS BLASTED PATH AGAIN.



HAH! LOOK AT EM RUN! THEY FEAR ME. EVERYONE SHOULD FEAR JIGSAW.

A-ALL RIGHT NOW. LET'S TAKE THIS CALMLY. RE-LOAD, THEN SPLIT BEFORE THE WALL-CRAWLER SHOWS UP.



PLEASE, FREE US...

SHUT UP, KID. DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO. I'M SICK OF BEING TOLD EVERYTHING.

M-MAYBE I SHOULD KILL YOU.



LISTEN, LET US GO. YOU'LL BE CLEAR BEFORE ANYONE TELLS ANYONE.

I SAID SHUT UP! LET ME THINK THIS OVER!

IN PRISON I HEARD FROM OTHERS ABOUT HIM. HE CAN'T BE HUMAN--HE CAN'T BE!

MEANS I GOTTA HIDE UNTIL HE GIVES UP. YEAH... GOTTA HIDE!



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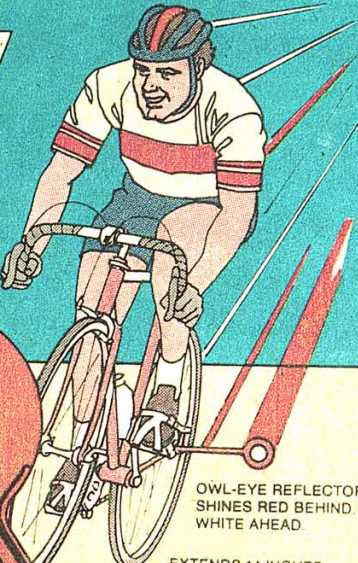
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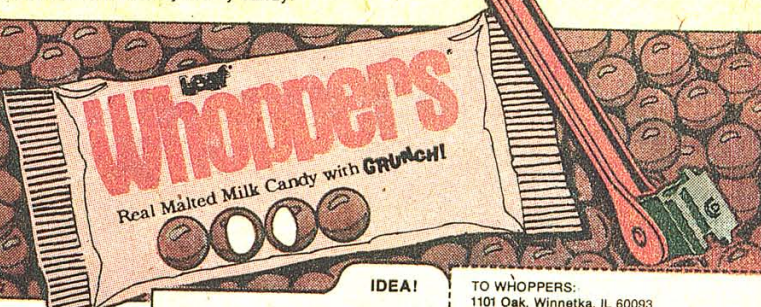


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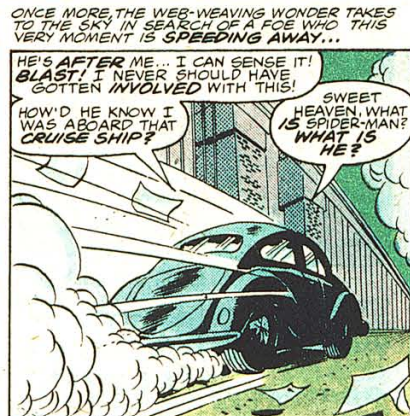
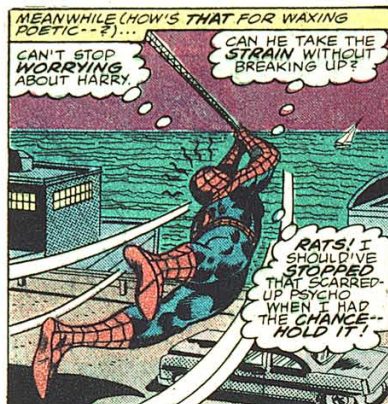
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Y'know something? I thought I was making life easier for myself when I asked you to send me ideas for things to write about here in the Soapbox. But, you can't win! Now it takes longer to read all the letters than it used to take to think up my own subjects! But, I shouldn't really complain because some of your suggestions and ideas are really great. However, no matter how strongly you suggest it, I absolutely won't trade jobs with Irving Forbush—so stop sending those petitions, huh? (I didn't know of Irving had so many friends—who know how to write!) Anyhow, here's a question that's cropped up in many of your letters, so I might as well tackle it right now. "How do you explain the fact that mighty Marvel is so much better than its 'Distinguished Competition'?" (Boy, I dunno why I pick the tough ones!)

First of all, while I appreciate the implication inherent in the question, I must—in all fairness—reject it. We do our stories in a certain style, and they do theirs in their own way. To call one style "better" or "worse" is just a mat-

ter of opinion. Our competitors, and that includes Archie Comics, Harvey Comics, and Gold Key, as well as D.C., all have tremendously talented and capable artists and writers producing their books. In fact, many people working for other comicbook companies used to work for us at one time or other, and may do so again. A great many of them are long-time personal friends of ours. Some have learned their trade in the Marvel Bullpen, and some have helped to teach us ours.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, sure we want Marvel to be your favorite comicbooks, and sure we'll knock our selves out to produce the best stories and artwork in the field. But we don't wanna succeed at anyone else's expense. We don't want you to feel you have to knock the other guy in order to be loyal to us. The better our competition is, the more it'll keep us on our toes—and the more you'll profit by it!

Okay, now that I've finished putting in my pitch for all the great guys and gals who toil in our little storybook world, let me admit that no one enjoys some friendly rivalry and spirited compe-

tition more than we do—just so long as you remember that the watchword is "friendly". Our competitors aren't the "bad guys". They can't help it if Marvel leads the way! (Whoops! There I go again!)

Anyway, now that I've ended my exemplary exaltation, I promise that next issue I'll give you a serious opinion as to the real difference in editorial approach and attitude between our competitors and Marvel. Remember, it'll just be one guy's opinion, but I think you may find it interesting. So, till then remember—we all need each other. Even a superhero can't do it alone!

Excelsior!

Stan

P.S. After I got this whole thing written, I remembered I said, last ish, that this time we'd answer the question "Is Irving Forbush a real person?" And now there's no room! Well, never fear. We'll get to that after next month's column—that'll give me two more months to figure out the answer myself!

ITEM! Did you hear that Marvel's latest entry in the humor field is becoming the magazine sensation of the year? Fans describe PIZZAZZ as sort of a cross between Cray and the Lampoon. PIZZAZZ was originally planned just for the younger teenage reader, but you can't keep a dynamite idea under wraps for long—so now everybody's getting into it! It may sound like "Pizazz" with a couple of extra "z"s", but if you really want to blow your mind with the most colorful slick-paper mag in town, just call for PIZZAZZ! Only 75¢! Hurry, before we come to our senses!

ITEM! Let's face it—nobody hits a home run every time he goes to bat. Even the mighty House of Ideas can't claim to be perfect. Every single issue of, say, DAREDEVIL or even the FANTASTIC FOUR, flagship of our line, isn't always going to turn out to be as wonderful as we'd hoped. Under the awesome pressure of monthly deadlines, every once in a while, something just doesn't work out right, and we have to settle for a triple or a double instead of the "four-bagger". It isn't for lack of trying, guys, believe us! And, of course, it makes us feel all the more proud and happy when the creative combos are clicking, and we do come up with a real bases-loaded circuit blast! Like what, for instance, you inquire? Well, I'll be so glad you asked!

ITEM! Marvel Super Special #7, featuring the comics adaptation of box office blockbuster JAWS II is without a doubt the most dazzling comics magazine produced in recent history. It may well be the most beautiful comics magazine ever created! That's quite a statement, we realize, and yet we make it with utter confidence. In fact, we're so delighted and proud of this masterpiece of our craft that we're going to dispense with the hard sell and take the space to thank those responsible. Our sincerest to Gentleman GENE COLAN for his powerful pencilling; to Ingenious IRV

WATANABE for his neat, precise calligraphy; to Terrific TOM PALMER for his superb inking, and for his stunning, masterful airbrush coloring the like of which we have never seen. Thanks also to Battlin' BOB LARKIN for the inspired cover painting, and special thanks and congratulations to offset editor Rakish RICK MARSHALL who not only coordinated the free-lancers' efforts with the not-inconsiderable contributions of the Marvel Creative Staff, but found time to write the adaptation as well. JAWS II, in full, glorious color is on sale everywhere now! We wish we could just give everybody a copy, we're that proud, but go ahead, spend the \$1.50. You won't regret it.

ITEM! Not content with merely one box-office smash adaptation, somehow in the midst of our usual chaos, we managed to fit in another full-color Masterpiece! We'll give you a hint: it's about the hottest rock movie of the year, featuring stars like Peter Frampton, The Bee Gees, and George Burns; it's magical, musical and was inspired by the greatest rock group of all time! Those of you who guessed The Jasha Heifetz Story can go back to dusting their Rachmaninoff albums. Those of you who correctly assumed we meant SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND, please step to the head of the class, then out the door and to your newstand! Take a buck and a half with you, ask for Marvel Super Special #6, and don't take no for an answer! We can't wait to have your reaction to the wonderful work of DAVE (the Dude) KRAFT, GEORGE (Pacesetter) PEREZ, JIM (Cradman) MOONEY and the rest of our crack creative team!

ITEM! Yes, there's more—the most requested encore in Marvel history to be exact! Once again, it's KISS, the fiercest, most fabulous, most frantic rock group ever, appearing in Marvel Super Special #5! It's in full, blazing

color, natch, and you guessed it, it'll set you back a hundred and fifty pennies, but the Bob Larkin cover alone is worth the price. Inside, Reliable RALPH MACCHIO, Jet-propelled JOHN ROMITA, JR. and Trailblazin' TONY DEZUNIGA have combined to create a sizzling story with absolutely unbelievable visuals! We've sworn not to reveal the stunning shock-ending of the tale, but we didn't promise not to tell about the magnificent bonus fold-out poster in each and every copy. You've got to see it to believe it, but unless you hurry up and grab one, they'll all be gone!

ITEM! Still more? You bet! We've got yet another Super Special (#8) coming out any minute, but the whole project is so darn secret we dare not to do more than mention it! A word to the wise—watch your TV listings and your local newstand for BATTLE STAR GALACTICA! Nuff said!

ITEM! Just in case you think we've forgotten our roots, we hasten to reassure you that yes, we still publish our regular line of 35¢ color comics—and make no mistake, we love 'em best of all! We haven't lost our sense of wonder, nor our pride in the magnificent magazines that made Marvel! Check out Daredevil #156 if you don't believe us, and prepare to be dazzled by the Gene Colan/Klaus Janson art! And there's a whole new team giving BLACK PANTHER #13 a whole new look that's really worth a look! FANTASTIC FOUR #202 features the most demanded guest-penciller ever, (guess who!) and it's just plain great! And if you haven't noticed X-MEN lately, you're missing the most talked about ever-unfolding epic since the Iliad! In this day and age, who'd have believed that 35¢ could still buy all that excitement! So what are you waiting for?

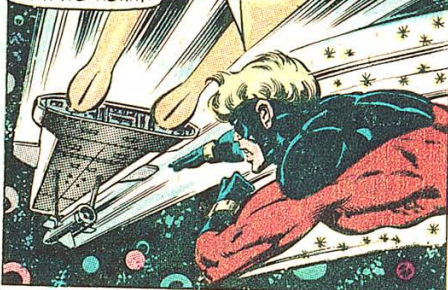
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CAPTAIN MARVEL™ MEETS THE DREADNOUGHT

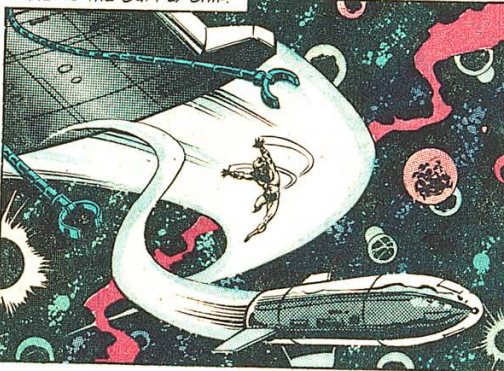
THEY DID IT AGAIN, CAPTAIN MARVEL! THE DREADNOUGHT RAIDER JUST HIJACKED ANOTHER AUTOMATED SUPPLY SHIP TO THE OMEGA SPACE STATION.



I SEE THE DREADNOUGHT AHEAD... WITH ITS VICTIM.



EXERTING HIS TREMENDOUS STRENGTH, THE KREE WARRIOR PROPELS THE RAIDER SHIP INTO ANOTHER GALAXY, RELEASING THE SUPPLY SHIP.



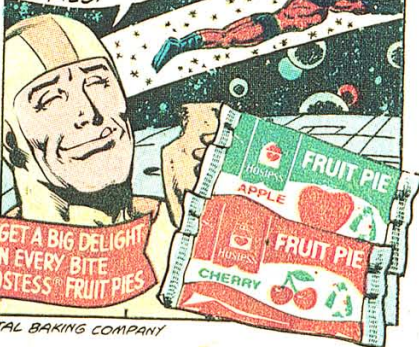
CAPTAIN MARVEL, YOU'VE DRIVEN THE DREADNOUGHT RAIDER OFF... OUR SUPPLY SHIPS WILL BE SAFE IN THE FUTURE.



BUT MOST OF ALL, YOU RESCUED OUR SHIPMENT OF HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES. I THOUGHT WE'D NEVER ENJOY THESE APPLE OR CHERRY PIES AGAIN.

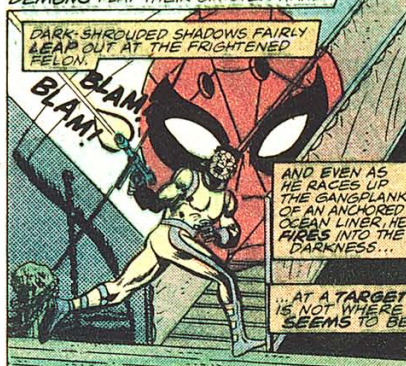


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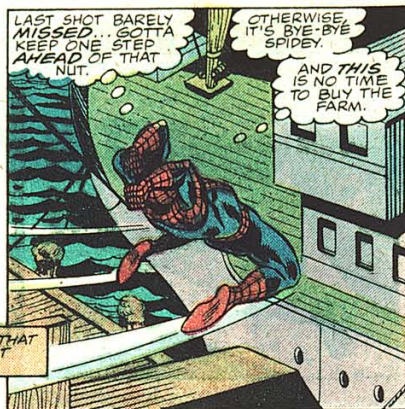
HOW CAN ANY MAN FLEE FROM **FEAR**? IN THE VELVET DARKNESS, FRIGHTENINGLY OBSCURE DEMONS PLAY THEIR SINISTER HAND.



DARK, SHROUDED SHADOWS FAIRLY LEAP OUT AT THE FRIGHTENED FELON.

AND EVEN AS HE RACES UP THE GANGPLANK OF AN ANCHORED OCEAN LINER, HE FIRES INTO THE DARKNESS...

...AT A TARGET THAT IS NOT WHERE IT SEEMS TO BE.



LAST SHOT BARELY MISSED... GOTTA KEEP ONE STEP AHEAD OF THAT NUT.

OTHERWISE IT'S BYE BYE SPIDEY.

AND THIS IS NO TIME TO BUY THE FARM.



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS I CAN COME AND GO AS I PLEASE WITHOUT BEING WANTED BY BOTH THE LAW AND THE LAWLESS.

SPEAKING OF WHOM...



D-DON'T SEE HIM ANYWHERE. MAYBE MY LAST SHOT GOT HIM.

BETTER BE SAFE. STAY HERE 'TIL MORNING. HIDE IN THIS CABIN...

HE OPENS THE DOOR, FLICKS ON THE LIGHT SWITCH, AND...



HI. I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS GOING TO SHARE THIS ROOM.

NO!

IT CAN'T BE YOU!

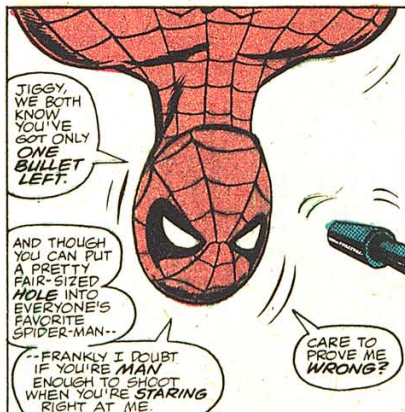


YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S NOT. I'M REALLY THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

OR MAYBE I'M THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

D-DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME, WALL-CRAWLER. I'VE GOT THE GUN!

AND I'VE GOT A VO-YO! SO WHAT?



JIGGY, WE BOTH KNOW YOU'VE GOT ONLY ONE BULLET LEFT.

AND THOUGH YOU CAN PUT A PRETTY FAIR-SIZED HOLE INTO EVERYONE'S FAVORITE SPIDER-MAN...

--FRANKLY I DOUBT IF YOU'RE MAN ENOUGH TO SHOOT WHEN YOU'RE STARING RIGHT AT ME.

CARE TO PROVE ME WRONG?



YOU'RE INSANE! I'LL BLAST YOU FROM HERE TO BROOKLYN!

HEY, QUIT STARING AT ME LIKE THAT.



Y-YOUR EYES STOP IT! STOP IT!

I... I... UHH...



I CAN'T DO IT. I CAN'T...

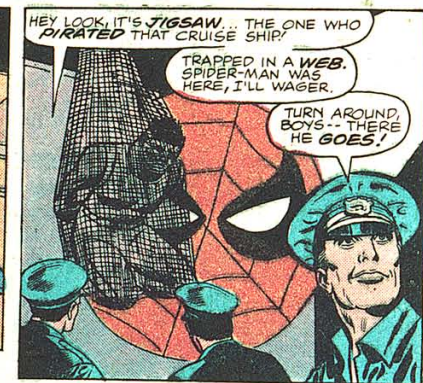


DON'T TAKE IT BADLY, JIGGY. BETTER MEN THAN YOU HAVE FAILED.

IN FACT, WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU'LL PROBABLY MEET SOME OF 'EM.

TELL 'EM "HI" FROM SPIDEY. WILL YA?

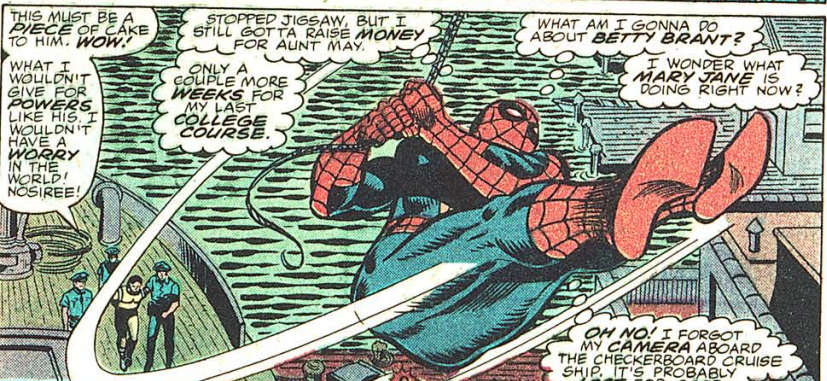
MOMENTS LATER THE SOUND OF SIRENS RING THROUGH THE MIDTOWN STREETS...



HEY LOOK, IT'S JIGSAW... THE ONE WHO ORATED THAT CRUISE SHIP!

TRAPPED IN A WEB. SPIDER-MAN WAS HERE, I'LL WAGER.

TURN AROUND, BOYS-- THERE HE GOES!



THIS MUST BE A PIECE OF CAKE TO HIM. WOW!

STOPPED JIGSAW, BUT I STILL GOTTA RAISE MONEY FOR AUNT MAY.

WHAT AM I GONNA DO ABOUT BETTY BRANT?

I WONDER WHAT MARY JANE IS DOING RIGHT NOW?

ONLY A COUPLE MORE WEEKS FOR MY LAST COLLEGE COURSE.

WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR POWERS LIKE HIS. I WOULDN'T HAVE A WORRY IN THE WORLD! NOSIRE!

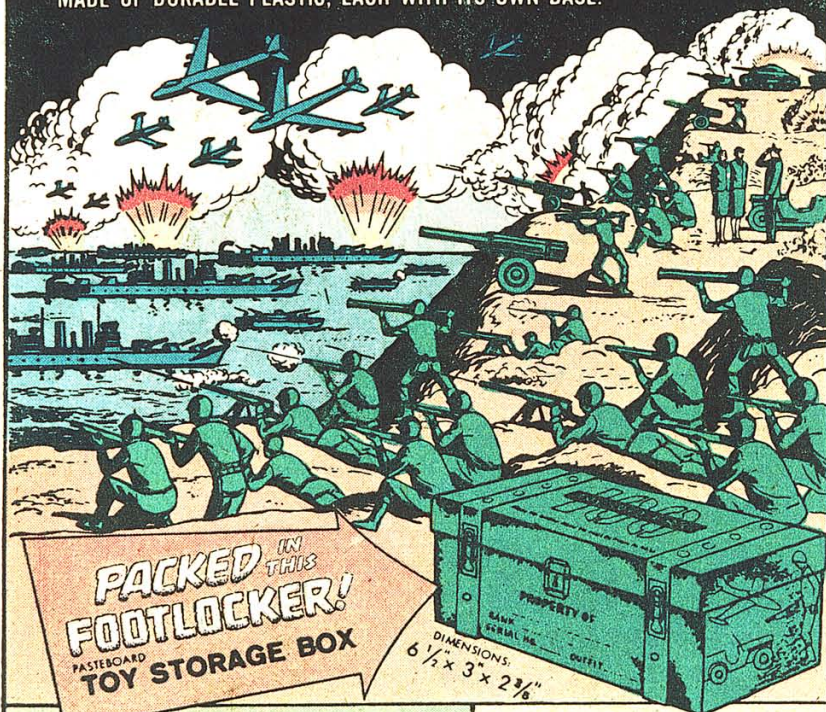
OH NO! I FORGOT MY CAMERA ABOARD THE CHECKERBOARD CRUISE SHIP. IT'S PROBABLY LOST FOR GOOD.

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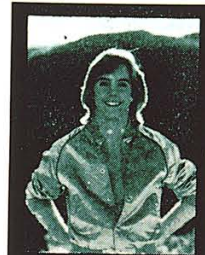
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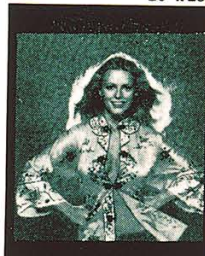
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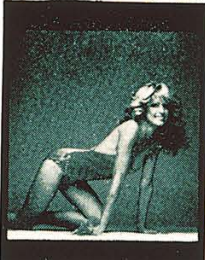
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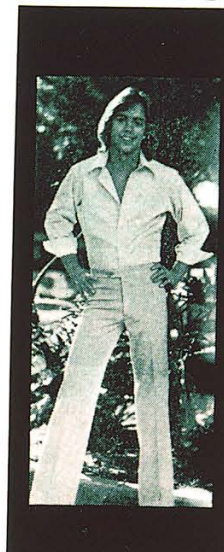
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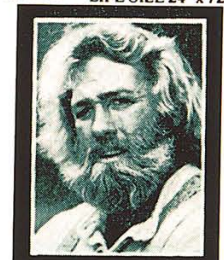
#3 CHERYL LADD
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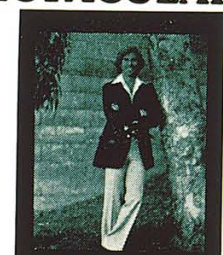
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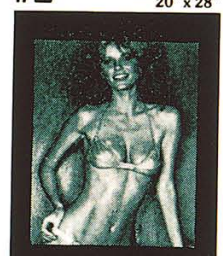
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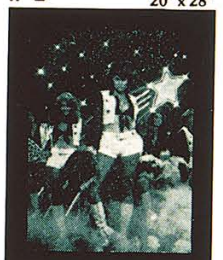
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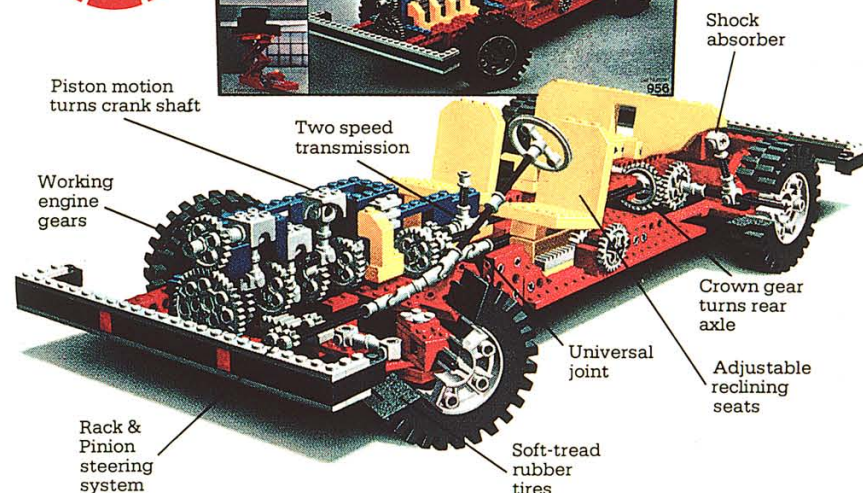
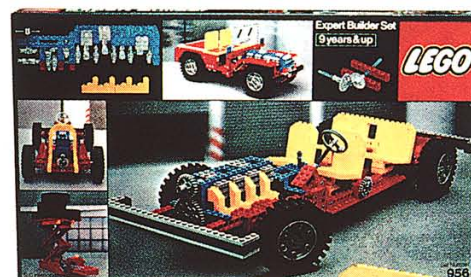
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